

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00661 250642Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00 /122 W  
-----129443 250926Z /23

R 250558Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8919  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0661

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG UNGA KS KN  
SABJ: UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY - DIECUSSION WITH ROKG

REF: STATE 016347 (DTG 202033Z JAN 78)

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED CONTENTS REFTEL WITH  
YCHONG-PIN,  
DIRECTOR OF UN DIVISION, ROK FOREIGN MINISTRY, OUTLINING  
PRINCIPAL OBSERVATIONS OF INTEREST TO ROKG.

2. ON KOREA ITEM, YI SAID ROKG AGREES THAT DIECONTINUATION  
OF DEBATE HAS BEEN BENEFICIAL TO ROK AND WELCOMED BY MOST  
MEMBERS OF UNGA. HE THOUGHT THAT ABSENCE OF ITEM FROM  
AGENDA FOR ONE MORE YEAR WOULD MAKE IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE

FOR IT TO BE REVIVED IN FUTURE (BARRING SOME IMPORTANT CHANGE  
IN SITUATION) AND THAT NORTH KOREANS WERE NOT LIKELY TO SEEK  
ITS INSCRIPTION THIS YEAR, BUT HE AGREED THAT THEY WOULD  
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BEAR WATCHING. HE ALSO AGREED ROKG AND US SHOULD REMAIN IN  
CLOSE CONTACT ON THIS MATTER.

3. YI NOTED THAT KIM IL-SUNG'S NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS THIS  
YEAR, CONTRARY TO 1977, HAD AVOIDED ANY DISCUSSION OF  
FOREIGN POLICY, MAKING IT SOMEWHAT MORE DIFFICULT TO  
ESTIMATE PYONGYANG'S INTENTIONS. YI AND OTHERS IN

MOFA SAW IN RECENT NORTH KOREAN VISITS TO ASIAN COUNTRIES EVIDENCE THEY MAY BE PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO ASIA THIS YEAR, IN CONTRAST TO THEIR HEAVY STRESS ON AFRICA IN 1977. HE SAID ROK WOULD BE CLOSELY OBSERVING NORTH KOREAN ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING ECHEDULED FOR KABUL IN MAY, AND THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR BELGRADE LATER IN THE YEAR, AS INDICATIONS OF SUBSEQUENT UN POLICY.

4. DISCUSSING REPORTS THAT ASIAN NATIONS WERE BECOMING DISSATISFIED WITH AFRO-ASIAN GROUPING, YI NOTED THAT ON NUMERICAL BASIS ALONE THE 23 ASIANS TENDED TO BE SWAMPED BY 45 AFRICANS AND 18 MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES AND WERE FEELING THAT THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO THEM TENDED TO

BE INEQUITABLE. ON THE OTHER HAND HE COMMENTED THAT THE ASIANS HAD NOT ACHIEVED MUCH EFFECTIVENESS IN UN LOBBYING, PERHAPS BECAUSE THEY WERE SO SCATTERED AND DISPARATE IN NATURE AS TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO FORM AN EFFECTIVE GROUP.

5. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER, DIRECTOR KIM TYON-KON OF ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION DISCUSSED ROK POSITION ON G-77 ECONOMIC ISSUES. KIM SAID  
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THAT WHILE ROK IS A MEMBER OF G-77 THEY ARE IN A MINORITY IN THE GROUP AS AN IMPORTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND AS A COUNTRY WITH RELATIVELY HIGH INCOME AND TECHNOLOGY. THEY HAVE SEVERE MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITIES, WHICH THEY BELIEVE WOULD BE VERY COSTLY FOR THEM. AS FOR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, THEY ARE BEING CONSULTED INCREASINGLY BY OTHER NATIONS REGARDING THEIR SUCCESS AND ARE UNDER GROWING PRESSURE TO PROVIDE MATERIAL

AID TO OTHERS. THEY DO NOT FEEL IT IS POLITIC TO EXPOUND CRITICAL VIEWS AMONG THE 77 OR OTHERWISE HIGHLIGHT THEIR DIFFERING INTERESTS, SINCE THEY REMAIN CONCERNED TO RETAIN

AS MUCH POLITICAL ACCEPTABILITY AS POSSIBLE AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Review Markings:**  
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